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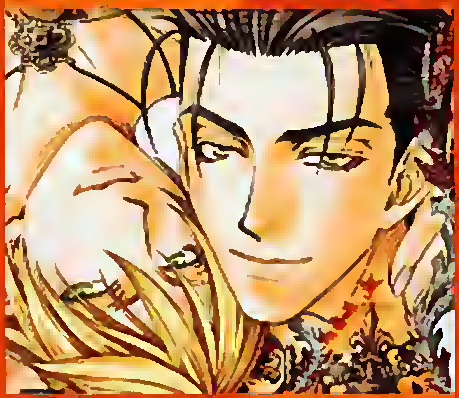

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Kuse ni Narisou

chapter 1b

Mangaka Minami Megumu
Publisher Hanaoto Comics
ISBN 4-8322-8345-6

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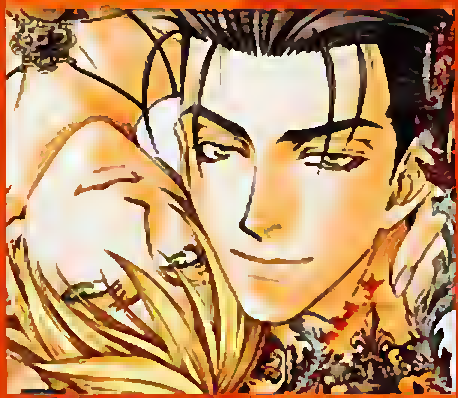

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Happy Halloween
from Countless Time

The Staff of Countless Time
wishes everyone a
Happy Valentine's Day!
2007

Kuse ni Narisou
JOINING FORCES WITH THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE ARMY?
BUT THEY'VE BEEN OUR LONG-TIME ENEMY!
IT COULDN'T BE HELPED FOR THE SAKE OF STOPPING THE SARACENIC INVASION, I'VE NO OTHER CHOICE
FURTHERMORE, THE ONE HELPING US,
IS ERIC LILIENTHAL-- AND HIS SOLDIERS--
OF ALL MEN, I NEVER THOUGHT THAT I'D HAVE TO SIDE WITH "HIM"--
THE REASON I FEEL ASHAMED IS ALL BECAUSE OF YOU GUYS!
WE COULD MAKE ENOUGH MONEY WITHOUT STEALING!
BEING A THIEF IS JUST OUR COUNTRY'S TRADITIONAL ENTERTAINMENT--
YOU'RE RIGHT SINCE HE BECAME IN CHARGE OF THE BORDER GUARDS, OUR BANDITS HAVE HAD LESS BUSINESS, EH--
DON'T TRY TO INCITE HIM WITH 'ENTERTAINMENT'
HE'S A VERY SCARY MAN

THE IMPERIAL SOLDIERS ARE HERE
A FEW TIMES I MET HIM WHEN I WENT TO RETRIEVE THOSE IDIOTS CAPTURED BY HIM
HAVE YOU SEEN HIM BEFORE?
HE 'LECTURED' ME FOR A LONG WHILE, POINTING OUT THAT I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO TAKE CARE OF MY MEN
KUSE NI NARISOU

WHO IS THE GUY THAT LOOKS LIKE A PRINCESS
EH!?
THAT'S LILIENTHAL.
THEY'DE A VEPY STRONG, UNPIVALED FORCE
CLOMP
CLOMP
DON'T GET TAKEN IN BY HIS FACE
AND HE WINS, EFFECTIVELY INFLICTING MAXI-MUM DAMAGE WITH MINIMUM CASUALTIES TO HIS MEN
YOU SEE THE TIDY GROUP OF SOLDIERS AT HIS BACK?
I HATE THAT BASTARD
REALLY

LET'S DO OUR BEST TO WORK TOGETHER, LORENZ LEHR
LILIENTHAL YOU CAME
WHO WILL BE THE GENERAL FOR THIS OPERATION?
ANYWAY, LET'S GET RIGHT DOWN TO BUSINESS.
YOU SHOULD BE THE ONE, OF COURSE
WILL WE START A WAR HERE FIRST?
Good Luck, Boss
WOW, THEY STARTED ARGUING, "WHO'S THE BOSS", ALREADY!

SWEAT DROP
EVEN THOUGH BOHMEN IS SMALL, YOU'RE STILL THE KING
A-ARE YOU SURE...?
YES
SHOW ME HOW GOOD YOU ARE
I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE SCARED OF HIM
AM I RIGHT?
DON'T TALK NONSENSE!
IS IT BECAUSE EVERYONE WANTS TO PROTECT HIS ASS AS TO THE REASON HIS FORCE IS SO STRONG?
SHOULD HE EVER GET CAUGHT BY THE ENEMY, HE'D NEVER ESCAPE THAT EASILY, FOR CERTAIN
EVEN THOUGH HE LOOKS VERY CUTE,
He's so harsh!

THAT WOULD SURE BE A GOOD THING TO WIN
HE MAKES ME NOTICE---- I CAN'T HELP BUT TO LOOK THERE
CREAK
.....
CREAK
WE'RE GETTING CLOSER TO THE PALACE WE NEED TO PROTECT
VERY CUTE
JUST ASS, THOU
HONESTLY,

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
NO... NOTHING!
ANYWAY, IT'S REALLY NARROW HERE
CREAK
ENDURE IT A LITTLE LONGER WE'RE ALMOST THERE
CREAK
JOLT
WAH!
PLOP
YOU'RE RIGHT IT REALLY IS SMALL, HUH?
IS EVERY-THING AL-RIGHT? THERE WAS A BUMP ON THE ROAD..

HEY! YOU'RE MAKING IT SEEM LIKE I'VE ATTACKED YOU!
YES, BARELY.
LILIENTHAL-SAMA, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
NO! THIS ISN'T...!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
EH?
I'M JOKING ♥
YOU HAVEN'T?!
WHAT A SHAME...
HA HA HA
HAS ANYONE EVER TOLD YOU THAT YOU'RE SUCH A MEAN TEASE?
THERE'S NO USE. IT LOOKS LIKE THE KING'S BEEN DEFEATED.
LOOK, WE'RE HERE! ♥
HEY! THIS ISN'T FUNNY...!

ROAR
DON'T GO ANY CLOSER!
DON'T BREAK FORMATION, OR THEY WILL PUSH INTO THE CENTER!
ROAR
OH NO, EVERYONE IS IN DISARRAY! IF THIS CONTINUES..

WE'RE SURROUNDED BY THE ENEMY!
I KNEW IT.
FROM BEHIND, THERE'S ANOTHER TROOP COMING.
DAMN IT! IF OUR RETREAT IS CUT OFF,
NO, I WAS WRONG, SIR!!
!!
OH!
IT'S OUR REINFORCEMENT! THE SOLDIERS OF LILIENTHAL!
LEHAR, SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT!

I'M SORRY THAT YOU HAD TO RESCUE ME
I CAME JUST IN TIME..
THE SOLDIERS OF ROHMEN SEEM NOT TO BE USE TO DOING BATTLE AS A GROUP,
I'LL HELP OUT ON THE SIDE
YOU CAN FIGHT HOWEVER YOU LIKE.
BUT THEY'RE STRONG IN FIGHTING ONE AGAINST ONE
BUT SINCE YOU WANT TO THANK ME,
MAYBE I SHOULD GET A REWARD?
LILIENTHAL
THAT'S WHAT I'M HERE FOR

!!
KISS
.....
LILIENTHAL?
I'M NOT I TELL YOU!
HE'S THE ONE BULLY-ING ME, FOR SURE!
YOU AT-TACKED HIM AGAIN!
HA HA HA
CLANK

I'VE LOST!
HEY, HOW MANY PEOPLE HAS HE DEFEATED?
CLANK
HOW'S THE PRINCESS'S SWORD SKILL?
HE'S EVEN TAMED THOSE BANDITS ALREADY
AND FROM THE LOOK OF IT HE CAN MANAGE TO PROTECT HIMSELF
OUR GENERAL IS STRONG BECAUSE HE'S SO TALL AND FIT,
BUT WHERE DOES THAT GUY GET SO MUCH POWER WITH SUCH A SLENDER BODY?
IT'S INCREDIBLE

WELL IT WOULD SURELY BE SATISFYING INDEED...
IS IT REALLY NON-SENSE?
AND YET, THERE ARE A QUITE FEW WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE LIVELY TYPE LIKE HIM
I TOLD YOU NOT TO TALK NONSENSE, DIDN'T I?
WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT?
YOU'LL HAVE TO VIGILANTLY PROTECT HIM!
BECAUSE HE'S BECOME ATTACHED TO YOU
LEHAR!
ATTACHED!?
YOU MUST BE JOKING!

AHH-----
HE'S NOT LIKE THE OTHER GUYS THAT ARE NICE
SPLA~SH
LI-LI-LI... LILIENTHAL !! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
CAN'T TWO PEOPLE SHARE ONE BATH-ROOM?
UGH!
AH, YOU ARE BATHING?
UH, SURE
I THINK I'LL JUST FINISH QUICKLY AND—
LEHAR, SHALL I HELP YOU WASH?
GYAH?
.....!!

AH, HIS HANDS ARE SO SOFT...
LIKE I IMAGINED, YOU HAVE A GOOD BUILD
DON'T BE SHY.
NO, IT'S OKAY! I CAN..
OOPS, I SLIPPED
Slipe
!!?
JUST AS EXPECTED OF A KING---- THIS HERE IS ALSO VERY IMPRESSIVE
Clasp
YOU WON'T HELP ME WASH MYSELF?
Dash

IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S ATTACHED TO ME! HE JUST WANTS TO TEASE ME!
THAT'S TOO BAD
WHAT IF I GET USE TO THIS..
I CAN STILL FEEL HIS HANDS..
OH GEEZ
FURTHER-MORE, I HEAR THAT ONE OF THEM IS HIGHLY SKILLED.
OUR ENEMY IS QUITE TOUGH, AREN'T THEY?
I COULD GO FOR A ONE-TO-ONE DUEL.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED. THEY ARE THE WORLD'S MOST POW-ERFUL ARMY AFTER ALL.

WHY YOU?
I DON'T WANT TO SACRIFICE ANY MORE PEOPLE.
IT'S A LOT OF WORK FOR ONE TO RAISE JUST ONE PERSON
YOU NEED TO FEED HIM WHEN HE'S HUNGRY
AND PACIFY HIM WHEN HE'S CRYING..
YOU NEED TO SCOLD HIM WHEN HE'S BEING SELFISH
HOWEVER, I FOR ONE NEVER THINK THAT THEY ARE RAISED TO DIE ON THE BATTLEFIELD.
.....
I KNOW THIS ISN'T SOMETHING THAT A WARRIOR SHOULD BE SAYING.
I'm a weird one.
YOUR FUTURE WIFE SHOULD BE PROUD OF YOU
DON'T TRY TO GET FUNNY
I'M WAS BEING SERIOUS
ANYWAY,

WON'T YOU LEAVE THIS MATTER TO ME?
WHY? DON'T YOU TRUST MY ABILITY?
NO, I KNOW YOU'RE VERY GOOD,
BUT I HAVE AN IDEA.
PLEASE,
LEHAR...
WHO CAN REFUSE THOSE EYES?
ALRIGHT THEN

OH!
THANK YOU!
STARTLED!
GENERAL!
I AM NOT
I'm the boss here, you know.
BE CAREFUL NOT TO GET KILLED BY YOUR COMPANION,
AND YOU LOOK LIKE A HEN-PECKED HUSBAND GEEZ
NO! THIS ISN'T...!
HOW NICE IT LOOKS LIKE A FUN WAR TO YOU, EH
I'M DONE FOR...
UGH
I HEARD THAT HE WAS ASKING THOSE BANDITS HE HAD CAPTURED, A TON OF QUESTION ABOUT YOU
SO HE MAY KNOW KNOW YOUR WEAK POINTS

IS LILIENTHAL OKAY?
I HAVE SOME INFORMATION FOR KING LEHAR!
He's hanging around just like a bear during hibernating season.
AS I THOUGHT, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF I HAD GONE THERE MYSELF
EH?
I'VE BROUGHT THE ENEMY SOLDIER WHO FELL INTO OUR TRAP
SOUNDS LIKE IT.
He's even our enemy.
SOME-ONE FELL...?
WHAT A DEFIANT LOOK!
THIS ONE?

YOU.. YOU COWARD ..
Poor thing
YOU TRULY FELL INTO THAT TRAP?
I KNOW, THIS MAN IS A DANGEROUS ENEMY
BUT NOW THAT HE S MY PRISONER,
WHY DON'T YOU JUST QUICKLY BEHEAD ME?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH YOU
KILL ME
NO MATTER WHAT, I STILL DON'T WANT TO KILL HIM ..
I WONDER WHAT HE WOULD SAY ABOUT THIS
AM I SHOWING MY OWN FEAR?
MAYBE I HAVE GOTTEN MYSELF INTO A BAD HABIT OF BEING INTIMI-- DATED

I DON'T THINK IT'S NECESSARY
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO EXECUTE ME?
LOCK HIM IN THE JAIL, AND DON'T BE RUDE TO HIM.
FINE WHO CARES WHAT HE'LL SAY?
!
I MAY HAVE DONE THE SAME THING AS WELL.
I'VE ALREADY HEARD THAT YOU'RE THAT KIND OF PERSON
SAY WHATEVER YOU LIKE I'M READY FOR IT
LILIENTHAL
LEHAR DON'T GIVE SYMPATHY TO THE ENEMY
HE'S HERE!

IF YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT WE CAN ESCAPE,
THE LOSS OF THE SOLDIERS IS VERY FEW HUMAN LIFE ALWAYS COMES FIRST
THEN DON'T BE SO NICE
WALK WALK
NO WONDER HIS ENTIRE ARMY ADMIRES HIM SO MUCH
FURTHER-MORE,
EVEN IF IT'S THE ENEMY, HE STILL LEAVES THEM AN ESCAPE ROAD...
DON T LOSE YOUR ADVAN-TAGE AND HOUND THE ENEMY, OR ELSE YOU'LL BE BITTEN
IN THIS DAY AND TIME, WHEN THE RESPECT OF A COMMANDER CAN ONLY BE GAINED BY HIS FORCE AND CRUELTY
HE CHERISHES NOT ONLY THE LIFE OF HIS ALLY, BUT THE LIFE OF HIS ENEMY AS WELL
.....

WHO IS IT...
HELP
Splash
Splash
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT I'VE MET A PERSON WHO SHARES THE SAME FEELINGS AS ME...
GRAB MY HAND!
Splash
Splash
I'M LYING...
!!

I'M SURE HE WILL MAKE SOME WISE-CRACK ABOUT THIS AGAIN
HOW CAN YOU BE THAT CARELESS AS A GENERAL?
TO THINK THAT SOMEONE LIKE ME CAN ACTUALLY FALL FOR SUCH AN OLD TRICK !
THE ATTACK HAS BEGUN
RAWR
RAWR
CAUGHT
DURING THE TIME WHEN THE MAIN FORCES WERE ATTACKING, I SENT SOME ELITE TO RESCUE YOU
WHY ARE YOU HERE -?!
LILIENTHAL!?
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT ME?
"SOME ELITE" YOU SAY.. ISN'T THAT ONLY YOU, YOURSELF?

GROPE
!?
IF I GRABBED THIS GUY'S ASS
THAT'S NOT IT, I..!
BUT I'M FINE
HOW CAN I NOT WORRY..!
SEE!
!!
HAIL
HE'S THE ONE WHO SHOWED ME THE WAY

SHE WAS JUST A KID AFTER ALL, SO...
HSHH
!
IS IT TRUE, YOU WERE REALLY FOOLED BY A WOMAN?
YOU'RE WAY TOO CARE-LESS
IT'LL BE VERY EMBARRASS-ING IF WE RE CAUGHT BY OTHERS YOU KNOW
TRICK
TRICK
LET'S GO BACK QUICKLY
TRICK
LILIEN-THAL!?
IF IT WERE ME, I'D NEVER SAY SUCH FOOLISH THINGS.
HE'S MY VICE GENERAL!
IS THAT PERSON YOUR LOVER?

DON'T YOU THINK HE'S VERY BRAVE TO RISK ALL THAT DANGER IN ORDER TO SAVE YOU?
HE'S ALSO VERY SKILL-FUL,
RAIDING THE ENEMY'S CAMP JUST LIKE IT'S A PIECE OF CAKE
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE HIM TO ME?
IN YOUR DREAMS!
AH
SO IT'S ACTUALLY LIKE THAT
COULD IT REALLY BE THAT I...
I...
LEHAR, LET'S GO!

KIND-HEARTED COM-MANDERS,
WITH THIS, I HAVE PAID MY DEBT TO YOU.
TOWARDS THIS GUY?

SORRY THAT YOU HAD TO SAVE ME AGAIN.
WHERE'S MY APPRE-CIATION?
.....

TAKE THIS
A RING ?
IT S MY APPRE-CIATION
I DIDN'T MEAN IT THIS WAY...
NNN!?
THIS IS !?

NO..
THEY WANT TO DELIVER AN ALL-OUT ATTACK AGAINST US?
THE NUMBER OF THEM LOOKS DIFFERENT THIS TIME..
THAT'S THE PEACE EMISSARY!
HAIL
AH, IT'S HIM!

WE WON'T BE ENEMIES FOR VERY MUCH LONGER
YOU'RE ACTUALLY THE GENERAL OF THE ENEMY
BUT IT WILL VERY SOON.
I'M NOT RE..LLY HAPPY WITH THIS, HOWEVER...
HOW ABOUT IT? DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A TRIP TO SARACEN TO COM-MEMORATE THIS ANNIVER-SARY?
PEACE HASN'T COME YET!
TRUCE!!
ARMISTICE!!
LET'S CALL A TRUCE

AAH... FINALLY, I CAN SLEEP WELL...
LILIENTHAL...!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
YOU FORGOT ALREADY? IN THIS REMOTE FORTRESS, THERE IS ONLY ONE GOOD
HENCE, DIDN'T WE HAVE TO USE IT ALTER-NATELY?

BUT I DON'T MIND SHARING THE BED WITH YOU
NO
I COULDN'T ENDURE IT LIKE THAT!
...!
STARTLED
LEHAR LORENTZ!!
LILIENTHAL..
ATTENTION!
SHOCKED

HOW CAN YOU BE A KING IF YOU ALWAYS FLEE FROM YOUR ENEMY LIKE THIS?
LILIENTHAL
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
SILVER STICK
FORWARD MARCH!
Grab
PREPARE FOR IT
LEHAR
MY PLEASURE
THIS TIME IS MY TURN TO TORMENT YOU BACK!

GOOD.
NNN
IT'S SO SMALL
CAN IT REALLY GO IN?
Slick
LILIENTHAL
IF IT'S YOU THEN IT CAN GO IN
IF IT'S YOU

IT'S SO SWEET
rub
UHN
LEHAR
AH!
AAH!
yelp
LILIENTHAL
WHY IS HE SO CUTE!?

thrust
AAHHHH!!
thrust
thrust
AAH..!
.....
SO TIGHT
thrust
UGH
!!
I WONDER IF ANY TREASURE CAN FEEL BETTER THAN THIS...?

UN
YOU LIKE KISSING?
DEPENDS ON WHO THE PERSON IS ♥
I FEEL SO ASHAMED OF MYSELF GETTING JEALOUS ALL OF A SUDDEN LIKE THIS..
BUT.. DO YOU ALWAYS DO THESE KINDS OF THINGS WITH YOUR PARTNER..?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME
WHAT!?
I'VE HEARD MANY RUMORS ABOUT YOU IN MY EMPIRE
.....
.....
.....

IN ORDER TO SAVE YOUR SERVANTS WHO WERE CAUGHT, YOU CAN EVEN LOWER YOUR HEAD TO THE GARRISON
ALTHOUGH YOU'RE STRONG, YOU DON'T LIKE WAR
As I thought. That rumor again.
EVERYONE SAYS THAT YOU'RE VERY STRANGE
EH?
THAT'S WHY... I APPLIED TO BE A GARRISON
THAT.. LILIENTHAL...
IT'S SO WONDERFUL WE COULD FINALLY MEET
YOU'RE JUST THE VERY SAME MAN AS IN MY IMAGINATION
IT SOUNDS EXACTLY LIKE A LOVE CONFESSION.

WHAT IS HE DOING AT THE MOMENT?
AFTER THAT DAY I NEVER SAW HIM AGAIN
AND I ALSO CANNOT PRETEND THAT I DON'T WANT TO GO FIND HIM
We can't bring trouble to the princess.
EVEN THE BANDITS HAVE BECOME MORE OBEDIENT THANKS TO THEIR RESPECT TO HIM
AAGH...!
CRAZY... ISN'T THAT DESTROYING MY OWN COUNTRY?
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS TO VIOLATE THE NATIONAL BORDER

HE'S SO GENTLE,
NOW THAT I THINK BACK, HE DIDN'T MEAN TO BULLY ME FROM THE BEGINNING
I...
ALREADY CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT HIM
LILIENTHAL...
NOW I CAN ONLY THINK ABOUT YOU
YOU LOST WHAT?
LOST IT
WHERE'S YOUR EMERALD HEIR-LOOM?
THAT'S THE FAMILY HEIR-LOOM, YOU KNOW!!

HUH!?
HOW DID YOU GET HERE WITHOUT BEING QUESTIONED BY THE SOLDIERS?
YOUR HIGH-NESS... LILIEN-THAL! WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
YOU! LILIENTHAL!!
AH!!
BECAUSE I HAVE THIS AS MY PASS

HOW DID YOUR LOST RING BECOME THE ENGAGEMENT RING TO THE PRINCESS?
BLUSH
YOUR FINGER IS SO THICK,
ALTHOUGH THIS RING IS FOR THE LITTLE FINGER, I CAN ONLY WEAR IT HERE...

HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO HARASS ME?
YOU REALLY LIKE TO INTIMIDATE OTHERS
REALLY...
I'M ALREADY USED TO LIVING WITH YOU
YOU'LL BE MY WIFE...
END

クセになりそう

花音

みなみ恵夢

Megumi Minami

クセになりそう

みなみ恵夢

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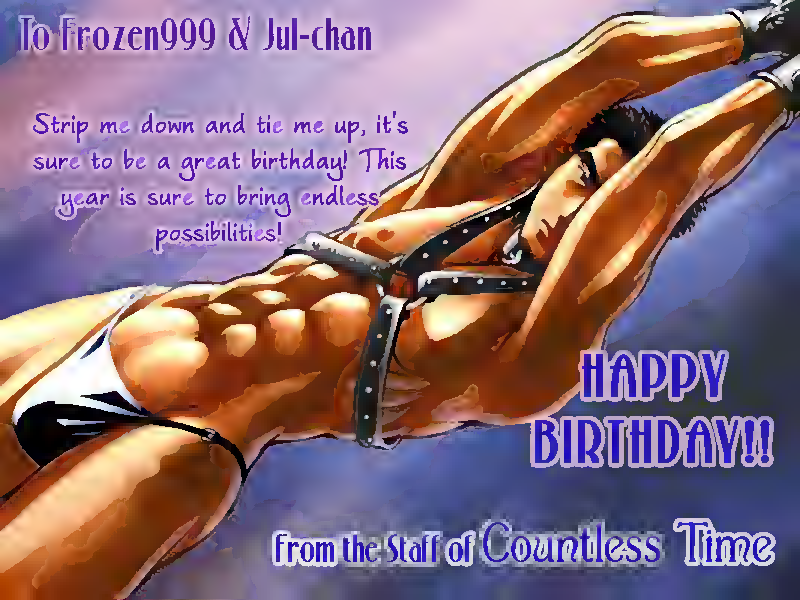
The only one the virile king Lehar wants to embrace in his arms, even if he has to destroy the whole country, is the lascivious commander of the neighboring country, Lilienthal, whose appearance is as lovely as a princess. Together in battle, they have also spent many affectionate nights of mutual love. A collection of touching love stories all around the world. With historical boys gorgeously recorded.


To Frozen999 & Jul-chan
Strip me down and tie me up, it's sure to be a great birthday! This year is sure to bring endless possibilities!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!
From the Staff of Countless Time

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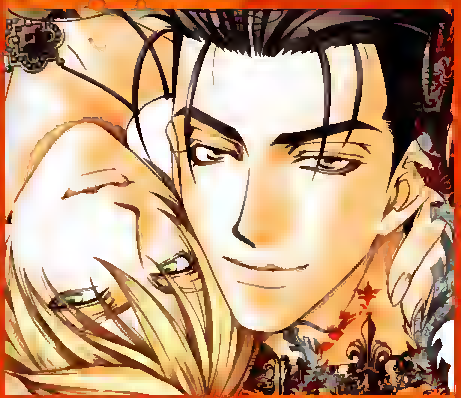

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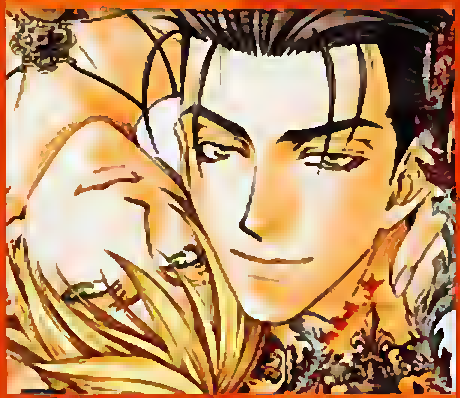

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chapter 02a

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COUNTLESS TIME
We are looking for dedicated people who can help us to spread the love around. We're currently open for applications for:
Scanner(s),
Editor
and
Japanese Translator(s).
Please don't hesitate to contact us.
Send an email to:
minako.scan [at] gmail.com
countless-time [at] tasuu.net

THERE'S NO SUCH THING HERE
BUT I HAD HEARD—
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO EXAMINE THE 'FLUTE OF INYOU'
IT'S PATHETIC TO PUT FAITH IN RUMORS CONTROL YOUR CURIOSITY
NO, IT WASN'T EXACTLY CURIOSITY
.....!!
THE 'INYOU' WAS ORIGINALLY, PASSED DOWN THROUGH MY FAMILY—
THEN... YOU ARE OF THE MIYAGI FAMILY?
I'M MIYAGI KYOUJIROU!

LEAVE!!
!? GRAB
KANAME—
KAZUNE WHAT ARE YOU DOING, BEING SO RUDE TO OUR GUEST?
陰陽和合
COSMIC HARMONY

THE FLUTE OF INYOU, HUH ?
I HEARD TALK THAT THE FLUTE WAS CURSED.
BECAUSE OF THAT, THE NEXT IN LINE OF THE TAMATSUKURI FAMILY NO LONGER IS IN CONTROL OR UNDERSTANDING, AND HAS FALLEN INTO RUIN.
BUT THANKS TO THAT, I WAS ABLE TO ACQUIRE IT INEXPENSIVELY
YOU COULD SAY THAT IT WAS DUE TO YOUR ANCESTOR'S CURSE.
WELL, IT'S A GOOD FLUTE, DESPITE THE TALK OF IT'S ORIGINS.
BY THE WAY, HAS NIISAN TALKED TO YOU?
MY OLDER BROTHER BY MY DECEASED FATHER'S MISTRESS...
THAT'S RATHER...
SCRAPE
NO.

HE, TOO, WAS ONCE AN EXPERT WITH THE FLUTE BUT ONE LUNG BECAME DISEASED
STROKE
IF YOU ARE THE PERSON CAPABLE OF BRINGING OUT THAT FLUTE'S TRUE TIMBRE, I MUST GIVE YOU A WARM WELCOME, THEN
SINCE I AM UNSKILLED WITH IT
WELL, IF YOU ARE TRULY THE MIYAGI FAMILY'S HEIR..
NOW, HE DOESN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH FOR EVEN ONE BREATH
EVERY NIGHT THE TWO OF US ENJOY MAKING MUSIC TOGETHER
IT'S A GOOD FLUTE IT HAS A TIMBRE YOU WOULD NOT THINK COULD EXIST IN THIS WORLD
CHUCKLE
WELL, NEVER-THELESS TEN MINUTES SHOULDN'T HURT

FEEL FREE TO LOOK AROUND
THE GUEST ROOM IS OVER HERE...
NN...?
THIS ROOM IS ---
SLAM
DON'T WANDER WHEREVER YOU FEEL LIKE!

THAT'S...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND VERY WELL, BUT
THAT LOOKED LIKE A RACK...
I'LL BRING YOU TEA
DRINK IT BEFORE YOU GO TO SLEEP
BUT... THAT COULDN'T...
YANG
TO FEEL HIS EYES ON YOU, WASN'T IT FRIGHTENING?
YIN
PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR TODAY...

THEN WHAT IF I STOPPED SERVING YOU...
RUB
RUB
THE WAY YOU LIKE SO MUCH?
AH...
THRUST
A DREAM?
I OVER-SLEPT...
CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP
DAMN, IT'S MORNING!

YESTERDAY, YOU DIDN'T SHOW UP?
I'M VERY SORRY, I OVER-SLEPT...
I DON'T MIND, RELAX.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T GIVEN UP YET!?
KAZUNE-SAN?
DON'T BE RUDE, KAZUNE
...!
KAZUNE-SAN FINDS ME TO BE A BOTHER, DOESN'T HE?
IT SEEMS LIKE THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME KAZUNE HAS MET YOU.
EH—?

I THOUGHT THAT THE DREAM I HAD WAS ABSURD,
BUT....
THIS IS AWKWARD
POUR
AH, YES
THE TEA IS READY.
UH
KAZUNE-SAN.

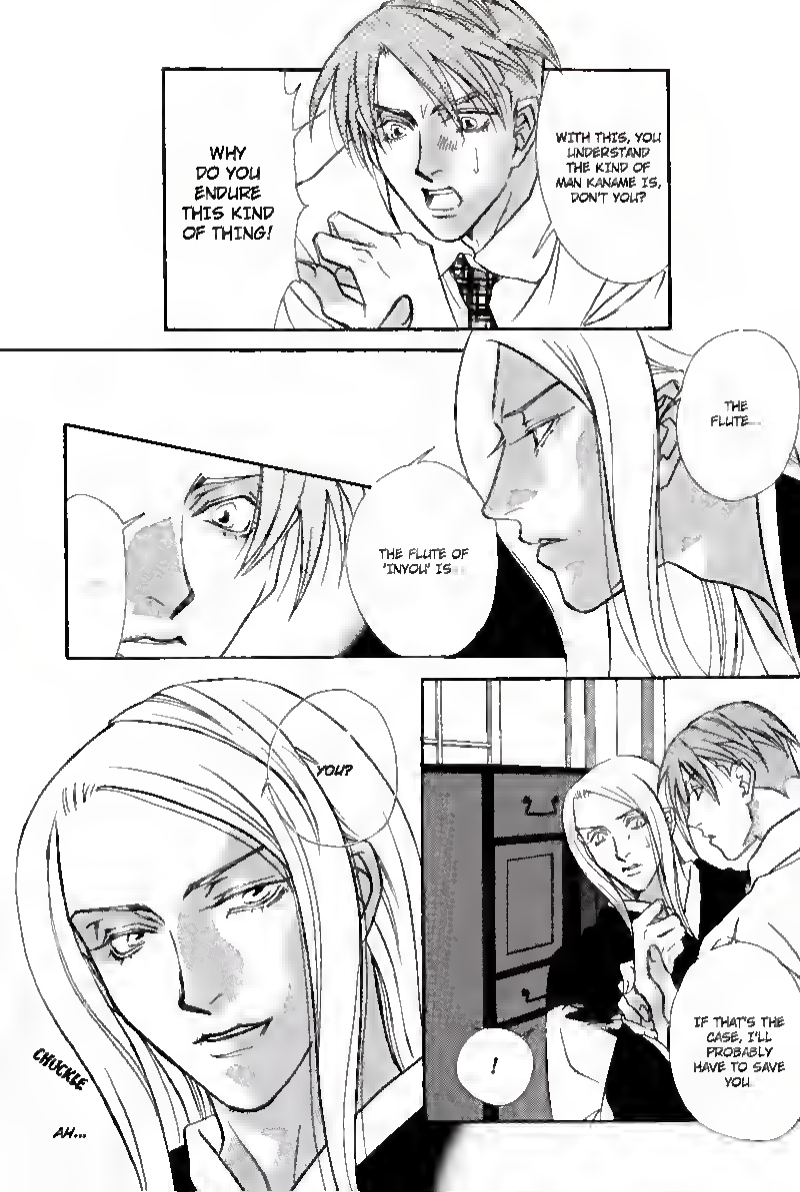
KAZUNE-SAN, DO YOU KNOW ME...?
OH, IS THAT KANAME SAYING THINGS HE SHOULDN'T?
SNATCH AWAY
I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T REMEMBER YOU
PFFT...
I WENT TO YOUR FAMILY'S SCHOOL TO LEARN TO PLAY THE FLUTE
WE SAW EACH OTHER AT THE FRONT OF THE FAMILY'S PROPERTY
OH, I SEE, SO THAT'S IT!
HAHAHA!
KAZUNE-SAN?

HURRY UP AND DRINK YOUR TEA.
YOU'RE LATE FINISHING UP
TWE
ET
SOMEONE IS PLAYING A FLUTE...
SO BEAUTIFULLY... WHO IS IT?
THAT PERSON...?
BOOM

SHIFT
PROJECT
YOU MUSTN'T LOOK!
MOTHER
KAZUNE-SAN...?!

THAT FLUTE IS THE FLUTE OF 'HARMONY' AFTER ALL
HAS THE INYOU'S SOUND BEEN INTRUDING INTO YOUR DREAMS?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE BEING PLAGUED BY SPRING DREAMS, KYOUJIROU-KUN.
N-NO...
IT'S POSSIBLE, SOMEHOW...
I DID HAVE THAT STRANGE DREAM.
SUCH COLDNESS FROM THIS MAN...
.....
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING WITH SUCH SERIOUS-NESS?
GIVE UP ALREADY...

KINDNESS...? HIM?
KANAME-SAN SAID I COULD RELY ON HIS KINDNESS...
I WON'T LEAVE, BECAUSE I HAVE NOT YET RETRIEVED THE 'INYOU!'
WHY DOES HE MAKE MY HEART BEAT SO LOUDLY...?
AH...!
DON'T TOUCH ME!
WHAT'S WRONG? YOUR WRIST...
THIS IS...


WHY DO YOU ENDURE THIS KIND OF THING!
WITH THIS, YOU UNDERSTAND THE KIND OF MAN KANAME IS, DON'T YOU?
THE FLUTE...
THE FLUTE OF 'INYOU' IS...
YOU?
CHUCKLE
AH...
!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, I'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO SAVE YOU.

KAZUNE-SAN...
YOU FINALLY SMILED FOR ME...
THE SMALL TALK IS OVER
DRINK YOUR TEA
KYOUJIROU-KUN...
KAZUNE-SAN!
DASH!
SUCH RUDENESS... IF IT WERE ME, I WOULDN'T DRINK IT
YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT HE MIGHT HAVE PUT IN IT
!

YOUR ANCESTOR SACRIFICED HIMSELF TO CREATE A FLUTE FOR A RICH MAN TO SEND AWAY THE LOVER OF A YOUNG BRIDE OF THE TAMATSUKURI-FAMILY
DO YOU KNOW THE FATE OF THAT FLUTE?
I PLACE A CURSE OF HARMONY ON YOUR MARRIAGE.
HOWEVER,
LIKE A BEAST, IT DOES SO INDISCRIMINATELY
LIKE THE TIDE THE HARMONY THEY PRAYED FOR CAME TO THEM,
ALONG WITH THAT TRUTH CAME A GRUDGE
THAT FLUTE, YOU KNOW, TRULY CAN GRANT PEOPLE HARMONY...

IS THAT A BLESSING... OR IS IT A CURSE?
LURED TO THE SOUND OF THE FLUTE
DAY AND NIGHT, THEY MATED LIKE ANIMALS...
IN THE END, THE PRESENT HEAD OF THE FAMILY BECAME EQUAL TO A CRIPPLE, AND THE TAMATSUKURI FAMILY FELL INTO RUIN.
AHH...
SUCH A TERRIBLE LEGEND.
TWEET
TIMORE YOU WOULD NOT THINK COULD EXIST IN THIS WORLD.
TONIGHT'S ACTIVITIES WILL HAVE TO WAIT.
TWEET
"INMOU"...?!
.....!

THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT ORDINARY FLUTE.
SHIVER
FROM WHERE...
IT'S SOMETHING THAT IS SAID TO CAST CURSES...
TWEET
AND GLOOM OF A CONSUMING RESENTMENT.
I CAN'T MY CHEST
IS THAT THE ONLY SOUND YOU CAN MAKE?
PUSH
ARG...!
YOUR PUNISHMENT-- ONE MORE FINGER.
AAH-

NO...
STOP...!
AH!
HAH!
SHLORP
SHLORP
ISN'T THIS MAKING SUCH A GOOD SOUND HERE?
!
THUMP
I DON'T WANT TO!
GRAB
UWAH!
I-I'LL FALL!
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO FALL THEN YOU'D BETTER HOLD ON PROPERLY...
THERE...

AH!!
WATCH!
SLIDE
WITH THIS, HMM?
STROKE
SMACK
AAGH!
AH!
SMACK
UHN ...!
SQUEEZE
RUB
RUB
AAAH...!
I'M COM... ING!

HOIST!
KYOU-JI-ROU...!
DON'T LOOK!!
TO BE CONTINUED

I GUESS YOU DESPISE ME..
KAZUNE-SAN
.....
WHY WOULD I. .
.. BUT STILL, I CANNOT BE PARTED FROM THAT FLUTE.
EVEN IF MY SOUL IS VIOLATED BY THAT FLUTE, I CAN'T RUN AWAY.
KAZUNE-SAN ..
DESPITE MY SHAMEFUL POSITION, I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LIVE HERE...
WHY... DID YOU COME HERE ..?

YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME...?
OF COURSE I AM!!
IF YOU HEAR THE FLUTE'S TRUE TONE,
YOU WILL BE DOOMED!
KYOU-JIROU...
I'M SO GLAD!
KAZUNE -SAN!
HURRY AND LEAVE HERE ..
BUT THERE'S STILL TIME.
HUG
I AM SURE I'LL BE ALRIGHT
?
ID-IDIOT, THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE TALKING ABOUT THAT ..
I THOUGHT THAT YOU HATED ME

HEY, IT'S NOT FUNNY...
HA...
HAHAHAHA!
SORRY!
A FLUTE BEING A FLUTE, I CAN BLOW INTO IT, BUT I CAN'T PLAY.
IT'S TERRIBLE, I KNOW, BUT IT'S TRUE.
THAT.. THAT'S A BIT...
BUT I NEVER REALLY GOT THE KNACK OF IT..
"ACT LIKE YOU ARE WHISPERING TO YOUR LOVER," THEY TOLD ME,
I PROBABLY HANDLE IT TOO ROUGHLY.
I DON'T KNOW WHY...
YOU REALLY CAN'T PLAY?
THAT'S ODD, I HEARD THAT YOU HAD BECOME AN EXPERT.
BUT IT'S FINE.
BECAUSE IN THE END, THAT'S WHAT BROUGHT ME HERE.
CHUCKLE

BEFORE MY FATHER DIED, HE MADE A REQUEST.
WHY HE REMEMBERED SUCH AN ANCIENT LEGEND AT THAT TIME, I DON'T KNOW.
YOUR FATHER ASKED...?
TO SMASH THE 'INYOU'.
YOU'LL DESTROY IT FOR ME?
YOU CAME HERE FOR THAT REASON?
...!

KANAME WILL HAVE YOU PLAY THE 'INYOU'.
AT THAT TIME...
YOU ONLY HAVE ONE CHANCE.
YES, WITHOUT FAIL!!
KAZUNE-SAN...
WITH THESE HANDS...
SAVE ME.
THIS IS THE 'INYOU'.

WHAT'S WRONG, KYOUJIROU-KUN?
WELL...!
HUH?!
SOMEHOW IT FEELS LIKE THE AIR IN THE ROOM HAS GROWN COLD!
KAZUNE? SAN...!

AH...
I'M PLAYING..!!
TWEET
TWEET

TWEET
TWEET
STOP! KYOU-JIROU!
STOP!
CAN'T YOU HEAR IT?!
AH!
WHAT CLARITY OF SOUND...!!
WHAT TIMBRE...
THIS IS THE TRUE TONE OF THE 'INYOU'.
NO, AT THIS RATE.
GRAB
TWEET

CRASH
STOP!
AW...!
KAZLINE, YOU BASTARD!!
WAH!
MY BODY WON'T MOVE...!
...?!

I'LL INTRODUCE MYSELF, TOO, SHALL I?
SPLENDID TIMBRE!
EVIDENTLY, YOU HAVE MIYAGI BLOOD IN YOUR VEINS.
.....
I COATED THE FLUTE WITH A DRUG.
!!
I AM...
A DESCENDANT OF THE TAMATSUKURI FAMILY, CURSED AND BROUGHT TO RUIN BY THE MIYAGI FLUTE.
NO GOOD, YOU'RE TOO LATE.
GUH. .
CUTE BOY.
I ACTUALLY LIKED YOU...

I WON'T LET YOU GO NOW.
FOR ATONEMENT, I'LL HAVE YOU SATISFY ME.
YANK
AH!
TSK...
YOU'RE NO GOOD LIKE THIS.
I MADE YOU TAKE TOO MUCH OF THE DRUG..

PU SH
!!
AH... IT'S INSIDE KAZUNE-SAN...
HOW'S THAT?
'DOUBLE-HEADED SNAKE' STYLE!
TWIST
TWIST
INSIDE ..
IT'S MOVING INSIDE ME!
THRUST
THRUST
AAARGH!

DO... DO WHAT?
THUD
SHALL WE DO SOMETHING EVEN BETTER?
IYA...!
I'M GOING TO JOIN YOU TOGETHER AT THE ASS.
STOP IT, KANAME!
PLEASE, STOP!
INSERT
SINCE YOU'RE SO TIGHT, IT HAS TO BE THE THINNER END.
YOU'RE AS TIGHT AS I THOUGHT YOU'D BE...
KYOU-JIROU!!
UUH...

TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH
NOW, MOVE!!
SLAP
KA-KAZUNE-SAN...
S-SORRY..
BUT...
SLIDE
AAA!
HARMONY
YING & YANG
SLIDE
SO GOOD!

AFTER THAT, KAZUNE-SAN AND KANAME-SAN HAD SEX...
AGAIN AND AGAIN AS THOUGH THEY'D GONE MAD
KANAME-SAN...
THEY SOUNDED LIKE WILD ANIMALS

KAZUNE-SAN...?
YOU'RE AWAKE
SWALLOW
I-I'M GLAD, I...
NOW, ESCAPE...
KANAME IS CURSED BY THE 'INYOU' AND IS OUT OF HIS MIND.
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT BUT HIS GRUDGE AGAINST THE MIYAGI FAMILY.
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE...?
HE WON'T WAKE UP FOR SOME TIME YET. I WRUNG AS MUCH AS I COULD OUT OF HIM LAST NIGHT
WHAT ABOUT KANAME-SAN?

BUT, SINCE YOU WERE IN DANGER,
IN ORDER TO PROTECT YOU, I HAD TO DO AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE
AND I TOO HAVE BEEN BEWITCHED...
KANAME INTENDED TO GET US TOGETHER.
HIS PLAN WAS TO TRICK US INTO INCEST AND THEN MOCK US.
INCEST?!
YOU DON'T KNOW?
MY NAME IS KAZUNE.
...!!
I AM YOUR OLDER BROTHER.

BUT SOMETIMES.. I WOULD WATCH YOU.
COMPARED TO OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER, YOU'VE GROWN SO MUCH, I HAVEN'T RECOGNIZED YOU.
I WAS A LOWLY, ILLEGITIMATE CHILD, AND MEETING YOU DIRECTLY WAS IMPOSSIBLE.
YOU SEEMED BLESSED AND COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF MY EXISTENCE.
I DIDN'T...
HONESTLY, I HATED YOU.
BUT YOU SAW...
NO MATTER WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE, MY GOAL WAS TO TRAP KANAME.
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE ME IN SUCH A DESPICABLE STATE!
SAW ME IN SUCH ECSTASY!

I HAVE ALREADY BEEN VIOLATED, BOTH BODY AND SOUL, BY THE 'INYOU'.
HERE, THE 'INYOU'
THEREFORE.. I WON'T BE ABLE TO SURVIVE WITHOUT THE FLUTE
NOW...
DESTROY IT!!
TOGETHER WITH THIS BODY, THAT WAS COMPLETELY SULLIED,
PLEASE, DESTROY THE 'INYOU'!
WITH YOUR HANDS...

I WONDER HOW KANAME-SAN IS DOING...
WHO KNOWS? PERHAPS HE HAS AWAKENED FROM HIS DREAM...
OR MAYBE HE IS STILL SEARCHING.
HOW'S YOUR FINGER...?
STILL A LITTLE STIFF.
YOU PROBABLY WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE IT LIKE BEFORE...
I DON'T MIND
HERE, LIKE THIS.
KYOUJIROU DIDN'T SMASH THE 'INYOU'.
TO ME...
BEYOND THE 'INYOU', THERE IS KAZUNE-SAN'S EXISTENCE.

TWEET
THE 'INYOU' RESOUNDS WITH A PEAL OF DELIGHT!
IT WAS TOO LATE
KYOUJIROU, TOO, HAS ALREADY BEEN BEWITCHED.
IF I COMPARE THIS SOUND EVEN TO KYOUJIROU'S PLAYING, IT IS CLEAR:
TWEET
SINCE THEN, I'VE NEVER PLAYED ALONE.
HAVE BEEN CHOSEN AND BEWITCHED BY THE 'INYOU'!!
THE TWO OF US

A TIMBRE UNLIKE ANYTHING THAT EXISTS IN THIS WORLD...
TWEET
SHUDDER
AH!
AH...
AAH!
IS IT A BLESSING?
IS IT A CURSE?
IT DOESN'T MATTER. WITH THIS, I'M HAPPY!

I LOVE YOU...
YOU'RE ALL I EVER WANTED!
YING & YANG...
HARMONY...
END

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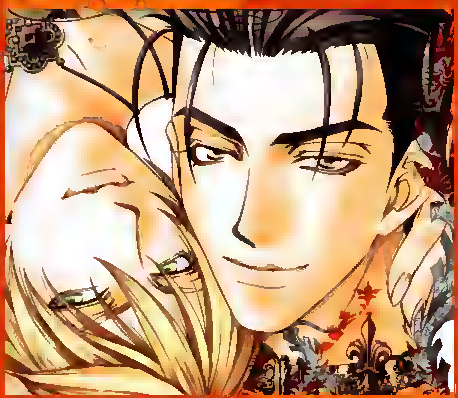

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chapter 03

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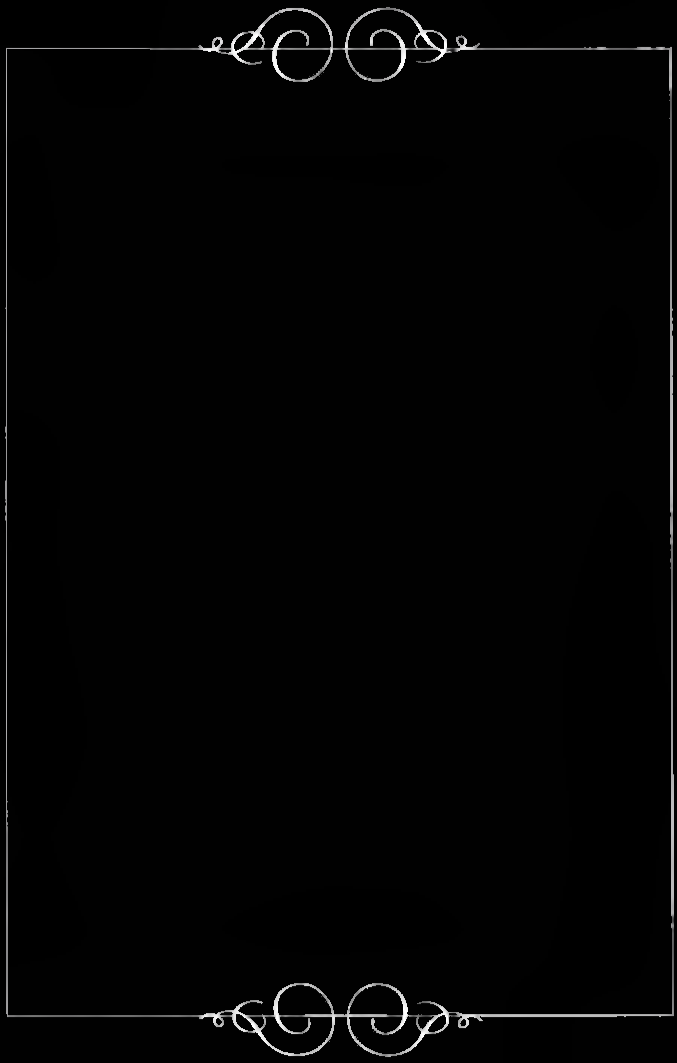


BE OBEDIENT AND GIVE THE BABY TO ME
I WAS HIRED TO TAKE BACK THAT CHILD
MY NAME IS RANDY
ARE YOU IAN?
I'M ASKING YOU, ARE YOU THIS CHILD'S FATHER, IAN?

THAT'S RIGHT..
YOU
HAVE CARRIED A SIN SINCE YOU WERE BORN
Sin

THE MOTHER OF THAT CHILD HAS ALREADY GONE TO ANOTHER COUNTRY
A MONASTERY DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS... INDEED, A PERFECT PLACE TO HIDE
IT'LL TAKE TWO OR THREE DAYS JUST TO GET TO THE TOWN FROM HERE
YOU SHOULD WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF FIRST
EXCUSE ME... WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE CHILD?
WILL HE REALLY PROTECT THIS CHILD?
ONLY THE BABY IS LEFT...
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WH_T YOU H_VE DONE?
YOU SEDUCED A DAUGHTER OF THE ROYALTY, AND SHE GAVE BIRTH TO AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD

NOTHING GOOD AWAITS A PERSON WHO ACTS AGAINST GOD
AND IN THE END, THE SAME GOES FOR THE CHILD BORN THIS WAY
THE SHAME WILL AFFECT THE FAMILY
...DID YOU MEAN TO KIDNAP THE BABY AND THREATEN THE PARENTS FOR MONEY?
THAT'S NOT IT...
I REALLY HATE PEOPLE LIKE YOU!
DON'T THINK THAT YOU CAN ESCAPE
I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE CHILD'S FAMILY AND LET THEM PUNISH YOU
YES
FINALLY,
I'LL FIND A PLACE WHERE I CAN ATONE FOR MY SIN...
I KNOW
hug

COO
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULD ACCEPT THIS MISSION
I HAVE NOTHING TO DO BEFORE I GO BACK TO MY COUNTRY, ANYWAY
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO ABOUT THE CHILD?
.....
THAT CHILD SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN BORN
BUT I WON'T ASK YOU TO GO THAT FAR
JUST BRING THE BABY BACK TO US, AND WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST
FROM DARKNESS TO DARKNESS

!
LEAN
LET IT BE
I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO BLAME THAT FAMILY.
IN ANY CASE, IT WOULDN'T DO ANY GOOD TO KEEP THAT CHILD ALIVE.
I UNDERSTAND IT BETTER THAN ANYONE.
RUMBLE
OH NO!
hold tight

Step
AH
AT LEAST SAVE THIS CHILD...!
PLEASE... PLEASE!

ISN'T IT BETTER TO JUST LET HIM DIE?
grab
pant pant
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...
IF IT'S NOT BORN IN MARRIAGE, YOU KNOW WHAT IT'LL BE CALLED?
"DEVIL'S CHILD"
THIS CHILD WASN'T BORN UNDER THE BLESSING OF GOD

THERE IS NOTHING GOOD IN THE FUTURE FOR HIM
IT'S BETTER TO JUST LET HIM DIE
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
hug
OH!
WAA..
SORRY, DOES IT HURT?
DON'T CRY, AIMÉ
AIMÉ?
LOVED ONE, HUH
WHAT AN IRONIC NAME
NOTHING LIKE THAT

...
HE REALLY LOVES THE CHILD...
I LOVE THIS CHILD...
THEN THE NEXT COMMANDER OF THE KNIGHTS...

OBJECTION!
WILL BE RANDOLPH...
TSK
reach
DAMN IT...
FINE! I DON'T WANT TO BE ONE EITHER, EVEN IF THEY ASK ME TO!

TAKE THIS...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
IT'S COLD HERE, SO...
EH...?
IF YOU'RE A SWINDLER, YOU MUST BE VERY TALENTED.

ARE YOU TRYING TO PROVOKE ME?
MAYBE I'LL RESPOND.
grab
ALTHOUGH YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL AS AN ANGEL,
A PERSON LIKE YOU I..

Yank
GO TO SLEEP
WE HAVE TO WAKE UP EARLY TOMORROW
BUT...
WHY DID I DO THAT?
SOMEHOW HE LOOKED VERY HURT

splash
splash
splash

hobble
hobble
hobble

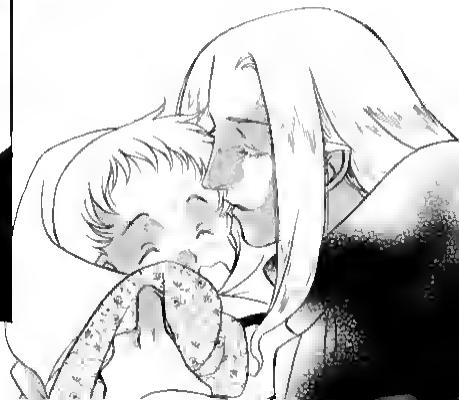
pull
hobble

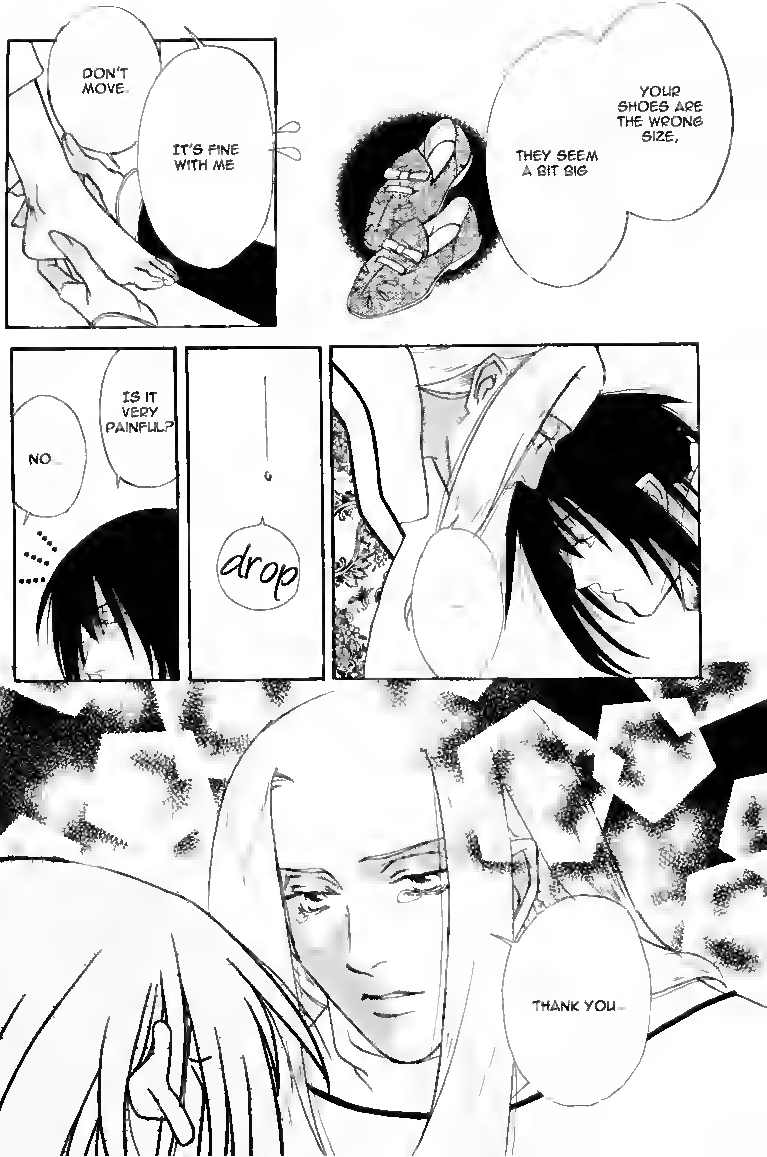
stagger

throb

Sit
THANK YOU
THAT...
splash
splash
AH
immediate wail
WAA!
YOU DISLIKE ME?
GIGGLE
I'LL HELP YOU HOLD THE CHILD
IT SEEMS THAT YOUR LOAD IS VERY HEAVY
NO WONDER YOUR SACK IS SO FULL.
IT'S AIMÉ'S FAVORITE BLANKET
WHAT ABOUT THIS WORN PIECE OF CLOTH?
Please don't throw it away
THERE'S MILK AND SOME CLOTHES FOR THE BABY
WHAT'S WITH THAT BIG LUG-GAGE?
rustle
rustle

THE CHILD'S FAMILY TOLD ME THAT THIS GUY WAS SUCH A GREEDY EGOIST




DON'T MOVE.
IT'S FINE WITH ME
YOUR SHOES ARE THE WRONG SIZE,
THEY SEEM A BIT BIG
IS IT VERY PAINFUL?
NO...
drop
THANK YOU...

YOU...
SHOULDN'T HOPE FOR ANYTHING
I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE HE'S THE KIND OF GUY WHO'D CHEAT WOMEN FOR MONEY.
HE REALLY LOVED HER DIDN'T HE
IS HE HAPPY? WITH SUCH A SMALL THING LIKE THIS...
AH, AIMÉ!
DON'T TOUCH OTHERS' THINGS
This is not for you.
THIS IS...
THERE'S A LINE ON THE BADGE

THEN YOU...
THE SAME AS WITH THIS CHILD,
IT'S THE MARK OF SOMEONE WHO IS NOT ACCEPTED BY THE WORLD
OBJECTION!
HE IS A DEVIL'S CHILD!
RANDY !
UGH

Pull
Yank!
WHAT...?
THIS IS...!

UGH
HIS MARK IS IT CARVED HERE?
LOOKS LIKE A COMBINATION OF THREE LILIES

IT WAS A VERY LONG TIME AGO.
I'VE HAD THIS MARK SINCE I WAS A BABY.
HEAD-MAS-TER!
I HAVE MEMORIZED EVERYTHING THAT IS WRITTEN IN THE BIBLE.
SO CAN I BE A PRIEST?
YOU ARE NOT THE SAME AS OTHERS.
YOU'VE BEEN CAR-RYING A SIN SINCE YOU WERE BORN.
YOU CANNOT HOPE FOR ANYTHING.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE?
YOU'LL BE KILLED FOR SURE!
YOU PLAN TO FOLLOW ME?
RANDY, WHAT'S WRONG?
YES...
REMEMBER, YOU WERE BORN JUST TO ATONE FOR YOUR SIN
WELL, I COULD LET YOU COME WITH ME.
I HOPE
ONE DAY, I CAN ATONE

THOUGH MY TIME IS ALMOST OVER, I WAS ABLE TO MEET AIMÉ AT THE END,
AND I ALSO MET RANDY
RIGHT NOW I'M REALLY HAPPY
IS IT REALLY UNFORGIVABLE...?
IS IT ALL RIGHT FOR ME TO LOVE?

WHAT KIND OF WOMAN IS SHE?
WHAT?! EH. ?!
DO YOU STILL LOVE HER?
RANDY

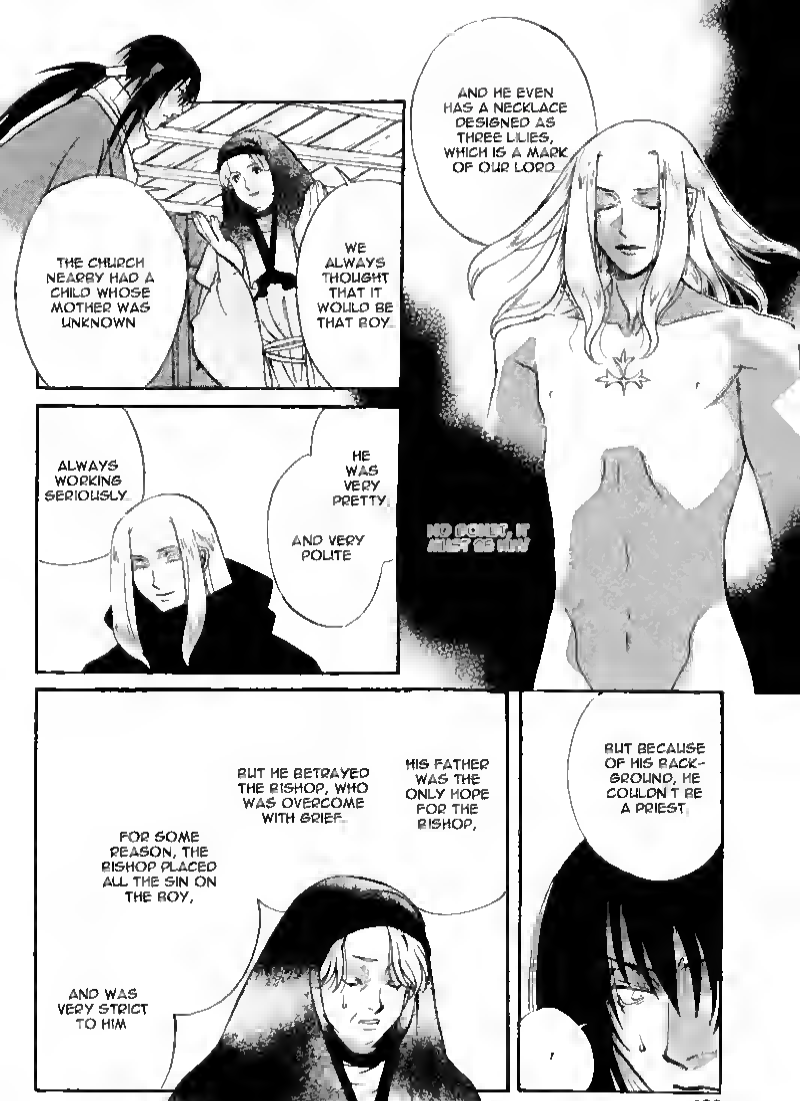
I'LL GO WASH THE CLOTH YOU HELP TO TAKE CARE OF THE CHILD
THIS GUY..
stink
EWW!
fall
splash
splash
!!
THAT'S...!

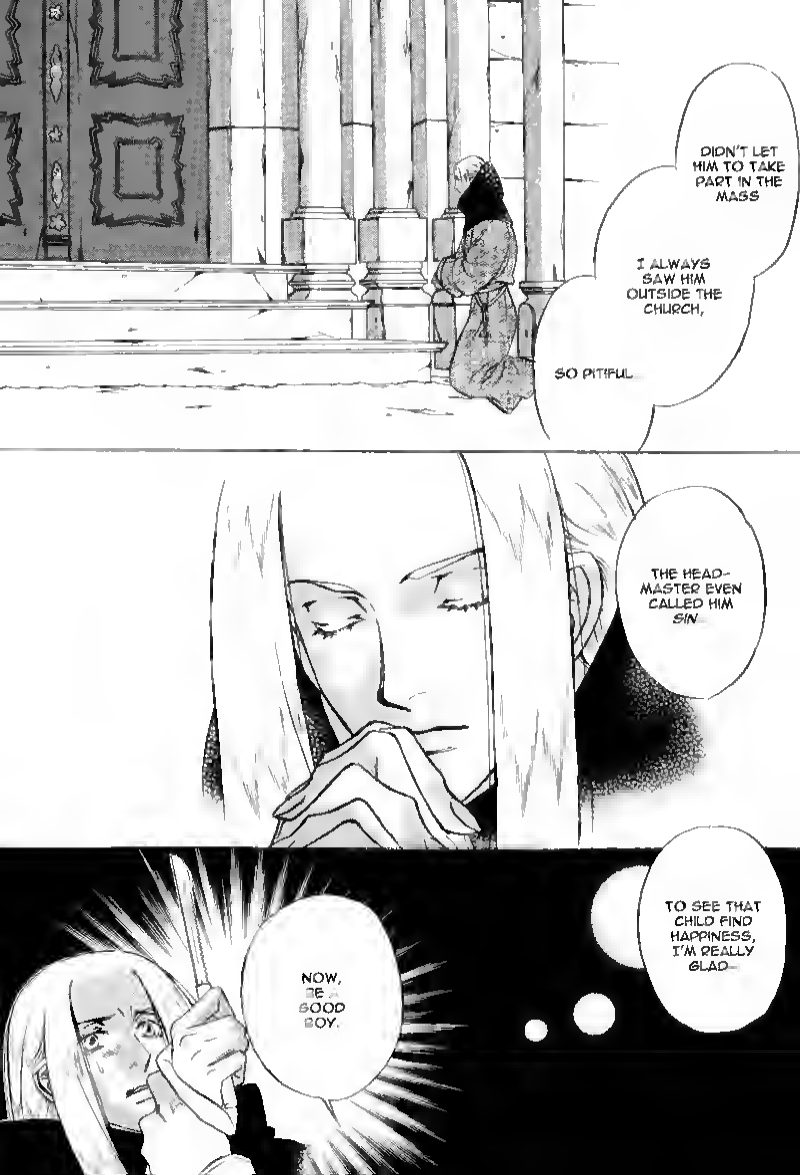
I'VE CHANGED MY MIND,
CAN YOU PLEASE LET ME GO?
RANDY
FINE, YOU CAN GO.
AIMÉ, BE GOOD
RANDY, I ENTRUST AIMÉ TO YOU

BE HAPPY
YOU'RE REALLY BRAVE, COMING HERE ALONE
I WON'T HAND AIMÉ TO YOU!
tremble
tremble
WHO SAID WE WANT THAT CHILD?
THE PERSON WE'RE LOOKING FOR
IS YOU
!

STOP CRYING, WILL YOU?
I'M NOT TAKING YOU TO YOUR FAMILY
waa!
I WANT TO TAKE BACK WHAT I SAID BEFORE
THERE'S STILL A CHANCE THAT EVEN A "DEVIL'S CHILD" CAN SEE HAPPINESS, TOO!
THAT'S RIGHT,
IT STILL REQUIRES SOMETHING ELSE
_I WONDER IF HE STILL LOVES YOUR MOM?
HEY...
WHAT DO YOU THINK CAN BE HAPPINESS FOR HIM?

WHY IS IT SO NOISY OUTSIDE?
OH, SIR,
THEY SAY OUR LORD'S MISSING GRANDCHILD HAS BEEN FOUND!
HE JUST WON'T STOP CRYING
OH WELL I'D BETTER GO ASK THE INNKEEPER'S WIFE
whine
THEN, LORD'S DAUGHTER PASSED AWAY WITHOUT MARRYING ANYONE,
SO HER GRANDCHILD IS THE ONLY SUCCESSOR.
THESE KIND OF THINGS ALWAYS HAPPEN..
OUR LORD HAD ONLY ONE DAUGHTER, AND SHE BORE A CHILD WITH AN UNKNOWN MAN..
THAT PERSON TOOK AWAY THE BABY AND THEY WENT MISSING
AND AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, SOMEONE TURNED UP AND IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS AIMÉ!
HE SAID HE WAS LIVING IN A MONASTERY SOMEWHERE..
EH?
BUT HE ONLY KNOWS THAT THE CHILD'S NAME IS AIMÉ
FOR THAT REASON, LORD WAS SEARCHING FAR AND NEAR FOR HIS GRANDSON,


THE CHURCH NEARBY HAD A CHILD WHOSE MOTHER WAS UNKNOWN
WE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE THAT BOY.
AND HE EVEN HAS A NECKLACE DESIGNED AS THREE LILIES, WHICH IS A MARK OF OUR LORD.
NO DOUBT, IT MUST BE HIM
HE WAS VERY PRETTY.
AND VERY POLITE
ALWAYS WORKING SERIOUSLY.
BUT BECAUSE OF HIS BACK-GROUND, HE COULDN'T BE A PRIEST.
HIS FATHER WAS THE ONLY HOPE FOR THE BISHOP,
BUT HE BETRAYED THE BISHOP, WHO WAS OVERCOME WITH GRIEF.
FOR SOME REASON, THE BISHOP PLACED ALL THE SIN ON THE BOY,
AND WAS VERY STRICT TO HIM


DIDN'T LET HIM TO TAKE PART IN THE MASS
I ALWAYS SAW HIM OUTSIDE THE CHURCH,
SO PITIFUL...
THE HEAD-MASTER EVEN CALLED HIM SIN...
TO SEE THAT CHILD FIND HAPPINESS, I'M REALLY GLAD—
NOW, BE A GOOD BOY.

WE'RE TOLD TO KILL YOU, BUT THAT'D BE A WASTE
YOU ARE PRETTIER THAN IAN
WE CAN SELL YOU FOR A HIGH PRICE,
BUT BEFORE THAT...
WHY DON'T WE HAVE SOME FUN!
RANDY
WE THE TWO OF US ARE NOT BLESSED BY GOD
RANDY
BUT..
CLENCH
FOR ME, THAT'S ALSO SACRED

HOW CAN THEY GIVE SUCH A CRUEL NAME!
SIN
SO HE LOOKS AFTER THE CHILD
PASSES HIS NAME AND HIS HOPE TO THE BABY
MAY THIS CHILD... BE LOVED BY ALL...
EXCUSE ME, MADAM, COULD YOU TAKE CARE OF THE BABY FOR A WHILE?
I'M STILL CONCERNED ABOUT ONE THING. HOW COULD HE ABANDON THE CHILD?
Be good little kid, all right?
Sure
Cause
SIN WHY DIDN'T HE TELL ME THAT HE WAS THE SAME AS ME?
THEN I FELL IN LOVE. I LOVED HIM

I'D LIKE TO SEE AIMÉ.
DON'T WANT US TO BE SEPARATED ANYMORE.
I...
FINE, I'LL FIND OUT WHEN I MEET HIM.
WHO IS THIS GUY?!
I'M AIMÉ.
NOW I GET THE PICTURE!

I AM THE LORD OF THIS PLACE AND AIMÉ'S GRANDFATHER AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE?
YOU CAN'T FOOL ME
MY... MY NAME IS AIMÉ!
!!
YOU'RE IAN!
I'M RANDOLPH OF THE KNIGHTS
OH, I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU...
BUT WHAT YOU SAID JUST NOW, WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
I'LL EXPLAIN LATER
I KNOW WHO THE REAL AIMÉ IS!
swish
THIS BASTARD IS AN IMPOSTOR NAMED IAN

AIMÉ!
WHERE IS AIMÉ?
THAT'S A PITY. WELL, WHATEVER.
DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO STAB HIMSELF.
LET'S LEAVE HIM AS IT IS! LOOK AT ALL THE BLOOD, HE'LL DIE SOONER OR LATER
AIMÉ, I LOVE YOU !

YOU ESCAPED TO THE MONASTERY.
AND, THERE YOU FOUND OUT THAT HE'S THE REAL AIMÉ
THEN YOU JUMPED AT A CHANCE TO GET MORE MONEY THAN JUST FROM BLACKMAILING THE CHILD'S PARENTS
YOU CAME UP WITH THE IDEA TO SWITCH WITH HIM SECRETLY, AS YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE ALMOST THE SAME HAIR COLOR AND HEIGHT.
THEN YOU TOOK ALL HIS CLOTHES AND THE NECKLACE AND LEFT THE CHILD
YOU... YOU WANT TO KILL ME?
I WON'T KILL YOU NOW
YOU ARE THAT CHILD'S FATHER
IT WILL DEPEND ON THE PERSON THAT YOU PRETEND TO BE
BUT IF ANYTHING HAS HAPPENED TO HIM.

IF I GAVE IT A BIT OF CONSIDERATION, I WOULD KNOW
THE SHOE SIZE WAS WRONG
WHY DIDN'T I NOTICE?
MORE IMPORTANTLY
THOUGH HE NEVER SAID ANYTHING HIS BEHAVIOR SHOWED WHAT KIND OF PERSON HE REALLY WAS!
WAA
OH NO, HE NEVER STOPS CRYING...
WAA
!!
AIMÉ

I WAS HAPPY...
TO BE ABLE TO MEET TAIMÉ AND HIM...
WE THOUGHT THAT YOU FOUND YOUR HAPPINESS...
YOU ARE SO BADLY HURT !
NEVER... TO ANOTHER !
I... BELONG ONLY TO HIM...
BUT... I CAN'T LET HIM...
BEAR MORE SIN...
YOU HAVE TO ATONE FOR BEING BORN?
THAT'S RIDICULOUS!

HANG IN THERE!
HE NEEDS SOMEONE TO ENCOURAGE HIM!
GET THAT PERSON HERE QUICK!
GET WHO?
TO ME... YOU ARE PRECIOUS BY GOD
I SWEAR TO GOD,
IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH,
I'LL ALWAYS STAY BY YOUR SIDE...
END

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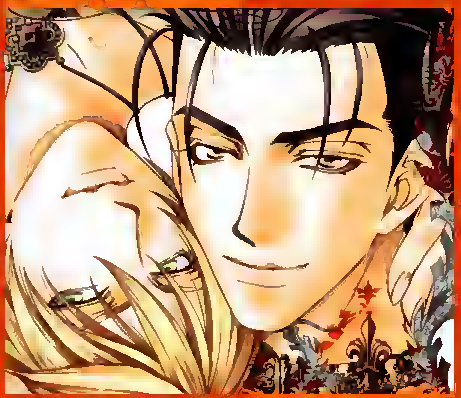

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chapter 04

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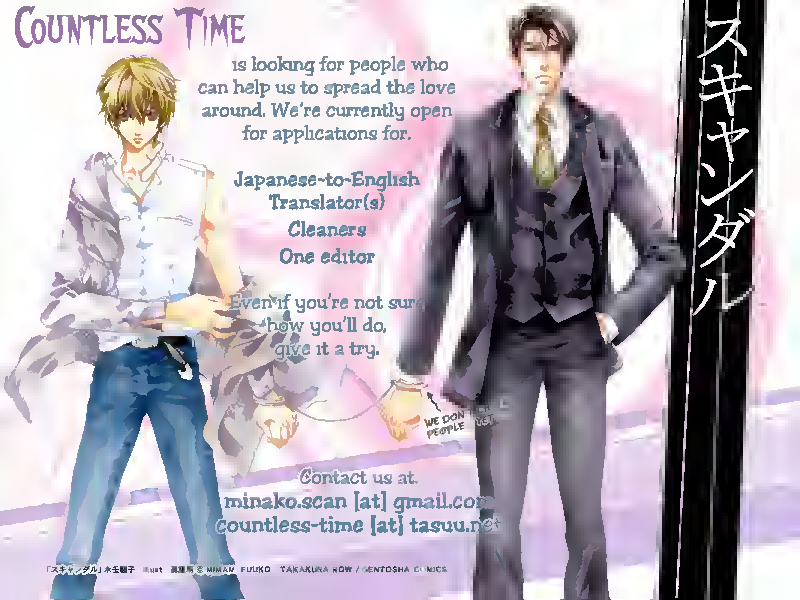

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「スキャンダル」水壬楓子　illust. 高星麻子 © MINAMI FUUKO　TAKAKURA KOW / SHINSHOSHA COMICS

JUST THE SOUND OF YOUR VOICE.
NO, THANKS
LET'S GO EXPLORE THAT OLD WELL THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT
HEY, MIZUKI!
I'M AN ORIGINAL MEMBER OF THE FAMILY AND YOU'RE NOT!
SO YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO WHAT I SAY!
HEY, DON'T IGNORE ME!
IF YOU DON'T LISTEN TO ME, I'LL THROW MYSELF OVER THIS LEDGE!
GO AHEAD AND JUMP

MIZUKI! WAIT!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU UNTIL YOU UNDER-STAND?
JUST THE SOUND OF YOUR VOICE DISGUSTS ME...
UH...!
MIZUKI!
TA-DAH!!
YOU TOOK THE SHRINE'S OBJECT OF WOR-SHIP?!
NO
TAKE IT BACK AT ONCE!!
IF YOU WANT IT, YOU HAVE TO TAKE IT BY FORCE!
IS THAT THE "HEBI NO HIRE"?!
WHAT ABOUT THIS?
Flutter
Flutter
"Hebi no hire: snake-repelling scarf. It is one of the ten sacred treasures of Shinto in the medieval er...

AH!
CRACK!
MIZUKI
WOBBLE
GRAB
HINA!!
THUD...

JUST THE SOUND OF YOUR VOICE.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME DRY WEATHER HAS CONTINUED WITHOUT ANY RELIEF.

IT DIDN'T WORK THEN
SHUT UP!
HMM
HAVE YOU PRAYED FOR RAIN AT THE KUSHINADA SHRINE, HINA?
IF IT STAYS LIKE THIS, GRANDMA SAYS THAT WE CAN'T EVEN PLANT THE RICE
KUSHINADA HIME
SUSANO SAVED KUSHINADA HIME FROM BECOMING YAMATA NO OROCHI'S SACRIFICE", RIGHT?
"A story from Shinto mythology. Every year a female was sacrificed to Yamata no Orochi, a giant 8-headed, 8-tailed serpent, to ensure flooding of the river and, hence, the rice fields. In exchange for Kushinada Hime's hand in marriage, Susano killed Yamata no Orochi.
STILL,
EVEN THE OLD WELL BEHIND THE ASSEMBLY HALL HAS DRIED UP
I DON'T MIND THE FLOODS SINCE WE NEED THE WATER
SHE BRINGS ABOUT THE RAIN THAT NOURISHES THE RICE FIELDS! THE MYSTERIOUS RICE PRINCESS
IT WAS YAMATA NO OROCHI WHO CAUSED THE FLOODS THEN?

SPEAKING OF WHICH, DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?
THERE'S A WEIRD LEGEND ABOUT THAT WELL
IT WAS RELATED TO SOME-THING OR OTHER
W-WHAT ?
NOW WHAT?
I'LL TELL YOU
IN THE PAST, SOME-ONE HAD TRIED TO GET SOME WATER FROM THE WELL
THEY STARTED PULLING UP THE BUCKET WHEN—
ALL OF A SUDDEN, THERE WERE COUNTLESS SNAKES ENTWINED LIKE A CHAIN
S-STOP IT!
HINA,
I FOUND THE INFOR-MATION YOU RE-QUESTED

Squished writing
IT'S A RESEARCH PAPER ON LOCAL CUSTOMS
I THINK IT EVEN MENTIONS THE KUSHINADA SHRINE OMENS
OH!
YOU READ IT FOR ME...
Ha Haha...
AT LEAST YOU'RE INTERESTED IN YOUR FATHER'S TRADE
NOT PARTI-CULARLY.
AS EXPECTED, HINA IS USELESS
AS FOR MIZUKI...!
I'M NOT LIMITED TO JUST FOLLOWING IN MY FATHER'S FOOT-STEPS

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
WAKE UP, MIZUKI!
HMM?
HEY?
WHY? FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME—
N-NO, I'M NOT JOKING—
THAT'S NOT FUNNY, YOU BAS-TARD!
WHO ARE YOU?
NOW WHAT?

AND, WHO AM I?
YOU'VE LOST YOUR MEMORY?!
SEEMS THAT WAY...
HAVE YOU TURNED INTO AN IDIOT?
NO. THIS DOESN'T MEAN I'VE TURNED INTO AN IDIOT.
YOU REALLY DON'T REMEMBER ME?
SORRY
TH-THEN,
I...I FEEL ALRIGHT, BUT...
BEING LIKE THIS DOESN'T CONCERN YOU?
Cuddle

PAT
...
DON'T WORRY, MIZUKI, I'LL LOOK AFTER YOU
MIZUKI, HOLD ON TIGHT.
TIGHTER...

I'M JUST BORROWING IT FOR A BIT
ISN'T THIS THE SCHOOL'S EQUIPMENT?
RUMMAGE
RUMMAGE
IT'D BE AWFUL IF I FELL.
I don't
YOU PROMISED ME WE'D GO AND EXPLORE THE OLD WELL, REMEMBER?
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING ON DOING WITH THIS?
LET'S SEE... A LANTERN, ROPE
ALL RIGHT! WE'RE SET!
NATURALLY!
DO I HAVE TO?
CAN'T YOU DO THIS FOR ME?
WHAT?

GO AHEAD AND CARRY THAT
Feeling mean
MIZUKI, DON'T YOU ALWAYS DO AS I SAY?
Slide...
SERVES HIM RIGHT!
? ?
I'LL MAKE HIM PAY FOR NEVER TREATING ME WITH ANY RESPECT!
EVEN IF HEAVEN AND EARTH WERE TURNED UPSIDE DOWN, I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D FORGET ABOUT ME
YOU CAN FIGURE THAT OUT FOR YOURSELF
THAT'S THE PUNISHMENT FOR FORGETTING ABOUT ME
WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP DO WE HAVE?

THERE'S STILL A CHANCE IT MIGHT BE DANGEROUS
THE WATER'S DRIED UP BUT,
IF YOU'RE FEELING SORRY THEN YOU CAN GO FIRST
JERK!
SORRY
IN THE OLDEN DAYS, THIS PLACE WAS KNOWN AS IWAKURA"
IT WAS EXACTLY HERE THAT THE GODS INHABITED THE IWAKURA
AT LEAST, ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND OF OUR SHRINE
Iwakura The rocky formation that a God was invited to descend to during worship
I THINK IT'S HERE
THE "ENTRANCE" TO THE CHAMBER OF SNAKES

UGH IT'S SO DARK, DAMP, AND CREEPY...
BE CAREFUL NOT TO SLIP!

IS THAT THE WIND BLOWING?
EYAAH!

RUSTLE

AH!!
YOU'RE RIGHT WHERE IN THE WORLD IS IT COMING FROM?
NN? WIND?
SHUDDER
HOW CAN THE WIND BLOW AT THE BOTTOM OF A WELL?!
THE "EN-TRANCE"
TOUCH

W-WHAT? ARE YOU SCARED?!
NO, BUT...
LET'S GO AND HAVE A LOOK
SQUEEZE
USELESS! THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE!!
I HAVE A FEELING THAT WE SHOULDN'T GO IN THERE
WE'RE BOTH USELESS?
WE'RE BOTH USELESS

SPLISH
EEK!

THAT WASN'T SOME WEIRD EVIL SPIRIT JUST NOW, WAS IT?
LET'S GO

BUT...

I GUESS WE MADE IT WITHOUT GETTING SOAKED.
THAT SO?

THIS SORT OF THING ACTUALLY
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO ENJOY

MIZUKI ALSO LOOKS LIKE HE'S ENJOYING IT

RUFFLE
YOU'RE NOT SCOLDING ME MUCH

Stare
W-WHAT?
ARE WE...
LOVERS?
HUH?!
WHEN?!
BASED ON YOUR EARLIER BEHAVIOR, IT'S THE ONLY THING I CAN CONCLUDE
LOVERS?!
EH ?
EH ?
IT SEEMS LIKE I'M ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT YOU...
MY MIND IS FULL OF THINGS ABOUT YOU.
AH, IF THAT'S THE CASE, I UNDER-STAND
THUD

THAT'S RIGHT! YOU'VE PROBABLY THOUGHT OF NOTHING BUT ME!
BUT
—
YEAH, THAT FIGURES
TSU...
MIZUKI,
HAVE KNOWN NOTHING BUT YOUR ICY STARE
UNTIL NOW, I—

LET MIZUKI DO IT INSTEAD
OF COURSE HINA IS USELESS
BUT WA...
THE MARK ON MIZUKI...
A SNAKE!
WAAH!
WHOMP
OH, WHAT'S THIS?
IT SAYS VARIOUS THINGS THAT WE ALREADY KNOW PLUS IRRELEVANT OTHER THINGS
HMM IT SAYS HERE THAT KUSHINADA HIME WAS THE GODDESS THAT GOVERNED THE ABUNDANCE OF THE RICE HARVEST

Scion: a descendant or a detached shoot or twig used in grafting.
"THE FLESH OF THE CHOSEN ONE OF THE GODS BEARS A BLEMISH
A MARK THAT SIGNIFIES HOLINESS
HIS MARK
A STIG-MATA—"
IS THE "SCION" OF THE TERRIFYING ONE...
IT'S OKAY, IT'S JUST A ROOT
ARE YOU SCARED OF SNAKES?
IT'S INEVITABLE!
AS FAR AS KUSHINADA SHRINE IS CONCERNED, SNAKES ARE OUR NATURAL ENEMY
DID YOU KNOW THAT KUSHINADA HIME WAS ALMOST SACRIFICED TO OROCHI?
SO— EVER SINCE,
WHENEVER I SEE A SNAKE,
I BECOME TERRIBLY ANXIOUS
.....

MIZUKI? WHAT'S WRONG?
I DON'T KNOW I SUDDENLY FEEL...
MISERABLE.
I... WHAT IN THE WORLD WAS I TRYING TO DO...?
I HAVE A FEELING IT WAS SOMETHING THAT USED TO BE IMPORTANT
MI-MIZUKI
D-DIDN'T I SAY I'D LOOK AFTER YOU PROP-ERLY?
I'M GETTING CON-CERNED!
HINA
THAT'S RIGHT AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE WITH ME,
IT'LL BE OKAY

MIZUKI'S MEMORY DOESN'T RETURN...
WHAT SORT OF STUPID STUFF AM I THINKING?
AND WE STAY LIKE THIS!!
EVEN IF SUCH A THING HAPPENED IT'D STILL BE THE SAME
LET'S GO
IN THE END, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF MIZUKI'S "MARK"
IT'S SURPRISING THAT WE MADE IT HERE

SOME-
THING'S
IN
THERE!
HISS
HISS...
RUSTLE...
SNAKES?!
OH
YEAH,
THE
"HEBI NO
HIRE"!
WHAT CAN
WE DO?!
THERE'RE
SNAKES!
SLITHER
SLITHER...

AH, THAT'S RIGHT!
THE SPELL THE SPELL!
MOTIONLESS
FIRST OF ALL, SHOULD I TRY WAVING IT AROUND?
FLAP
FLAP
DOESN'T THIS DRIVE SNAKES AWAY?!
"OKITSU-KAGAMI", "HETSU-KAGAMI", "YATSUKA NO TSUGURI",
"IKU-TAMA" "MAKARUGAESHI-TAMA", "TARU-TAMA", "CHIGAESHI NO TAMA",
"HEBI NO HIRE", "HACHI NO HIRE", "KUSAGU-SAMONO NO HIRE"...
ANCESTRAL GODS OF HEAVEN GRANT ME YOUR DIVINE INSTRUCTION...
TO USE THIS, ONE OF THE TEN TREASURES
WAVE!
SHAKE, SHAKE!
FLICK!

"Hina names the 10 sacred treasures of Shinto. "Mirror of the Deep" "Mirror of the Shore" "Sword 8-Hands Long" "Jewel of Life" "Jewel of Resuscitation" "Jewel of Plenty" "Jewel of Turning Back on the Road" "Snake-Repelling Scarf" "Bee-Repelling Scarf" and "Scarf to Ward Off Various Things"

BASTARDS!
WHAT? YOU'RE DISSATISFIED WITH MY METHOD?
PLAYING DUMB
GRAB!
DO YOU WANT TO GO INSIDE?
YEAH, NO MATTER WHAT!
I HAVE TO

MI-MIZUKI!
IT'S OKAY THESE SNAKES AREN'T POISON-OUS
THIS IS A DREAM
I'LL WAKE UP EVENTU-ALLY
I NEVER WANTED TO LOSE TO YOU
WHAT'S WRONG, HINA?
IT'S NOTHING...
SQUEEZE

BUT YOU...
YOU SAID THAT JUST THE SOUND OF MY VOICE DISGUSTS YOU
YOU AND I BOTH WENT TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL
EVEN THOUGH I HATE STUDYING,
WHO DID?
YOU DID...
EH?
BUT YOU'VE FORGOTTEN
YOU AND I ARE ON BAD TERMS
WE HAVE BEEN EVER SINCE THE OLD DAYS

NO WAY
EVEN THOUGH I WAS BORN INTO THE ORIGINAL FAMILY,
EVERY-ONE SAYS YOU'RE THE SUC-CESSOR
SURE ENOUGH, EVEN THOUGH I'VE PRAYED FOR PAIN, THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY
EVEN THOUGH YOU DID IT, I BELIEVE THE OUT-COME'S THE SAME, RIGHT?
SO WHY?
WHY IS IT YOU?
BECAUSE YOU, HAVE THE MARK

ARE YOU CERTAIN IT'S "THE MARK"?
THAT'S...
NO ONE WILL TELL ME
SO I SEARCHED THE SHRINE AND DISCOVERED AN OLD MAP.
THIS PLACE WAS ON THE MAP.
LOOK!
THERE'S THE REAL "KUSHINADA SHRINE".

THAT'S ENOUGH, HINA!
THERE MIGHT BE A CLUE HERE
BUT IF I DON'T DO THIS, YOU
WON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT ME, WILL YOU?!
CREAK..
HINA
DON'T INTERFERE WITH IT
THREATENING ATMOSPHERE...

SOME-THING'S CARVED ON IT
IS THIS A "SHINTAI"?
"Shintai" An object in which a God or spirit is believed to reside
"Mizuchi" Water spirit
MIZUCHI?
MIZU
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE,
WHY IS THE NATURAL ENEMY OF KUSHINADA—
THIS THING CALLED MIZUCHI, IT'S A SNAKE?
THAT I WON'T RECALL ANYTHING ABOUT YOU
WHY ENSHRINE OROCHI?
SO NOW YOU'VE HIT YOUR HEAD AND—
AL-THOUGH—

I'M DREAMING...
NOW, YOU...
...AS IT IS NOW, I LIKE YOU
I, UM...
WELL I...
OH!
CLOMP
EH?
AND YOU?
HOW ABOUT YOU, HINA?

THE SHINTAI!
CLUNK
Swish
?!
MIZUKI...?
ARGH...
Mist

MI-
MIZUKI?
RIP!
W-WHY DID YOU DO THAT FOR?!
IDIOT!
STOP IT! STOP!!
WHAT'S WRONG...?!
RIP!

HIS IS THE SCION OF THE TERRIFYING ONE.
S-SNAKE SCALES ON MIZUKI...!
CRACKS IN THE SKIN BECOMING LARGE, NOT SPLIT OPEN, YET CLEAVED...
ARGH!
THAT IS MIZUKI'S MARK.
AH...

AAAH, SNAKES...
HAVE ENTERED ME!
WHAT WILL BECOME OF ME?
HAVING BEEN RAPED BY SUCH A DREADFUL THING,
JERK!
FLICK
I'LL DIE
MIZU... KI...

USE THE "HEBI NO HIRE"!
HI-NA
MIZUKI ?!
I- I USE THIS,
ONE OF THE TEN TREAS-URES-
WHAT A RELIEF!
RAIN-
THE DROUGHT'S FINALLY OVER?
flop
flop

MIZUKI...
SWISH
SWISH
SWISH
THE SNAKES ARE STARTING TO FLEE...
HE SACRIFICED HIMSELF!
HE SAVED ME
OH YEAH, WHEN I FELL OFF THE CLIFF, HE SAVED ME...

ACTUALLY MIZUKI I SWOON AT JUST THE SOUND OF YOUR VOICE
"HOW ABOUT YOU, HINA?"
WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
EH?!
HINA
MIZUKI!
WHAT ABOUT IT? MORE IMPORTANTLY, GET AWAY FROM ME!
Y-YOUR MEMORY
AND WITH THE LIKES OF YOU...

MIZUKI, YOU'RE A FUCKING IDIOT!!
DAMN IT!
I ABSO-LUTELY LOATHE YOU!
UNLESS I PROTECT YOU..
MY LUST
Y
BEYOND THIS BODY,
I

THE MARRIAGE OF A SERPENTINE WATER GOD AND A GODDESS."
"FURTHERMORE, FROM THE VERY START, KUSHINADA HIME AND OROCHI'S RELATIONSHIP WASN'T 'MONSTER AND HUMAN SACRIFICE', BUT
JUST THE SOUND OF YOUR VOICE...
HINA...

"THROUGH THE ALLIANCE OF THESE TWO GODS,
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT FERTILITY HAD BEEN PLEDGED"
"THIS IS THE OMEN OF THE KUSHINADA SHRINE..."
END

月になった若者

メラネシアの一部にはかつて、豊穣と繁殖の象徴として「精液」を信仰する習慣がありました。

とりわけ少年がオトナになるには精液の呪力が不可欠。というわけで少年に成熟の兆候が現れると、母方の親族の男性が少年と共寝し肛門性交によって精液を与えます。大人になるまで延々とこの苦行は続くのです。

さらにソソムという祭儀。この時は少年達は巨大な男根像の傍らで、棒などで鞭打たれつつ次々と大人達に犯されるという大変な目に！

しかしこれらはあくまで神聖な成年儀式ですから、くれぐれも邪な目で見てはなりませんよ。念のため。

精液信仰に関する神話もあります。

ゲブは海で暮らす若者、その体は蛎殻が付着して棘だらけです。彼には恋愛など夢のまた夢。ある時、ゲブは娘達の姿を見かけ、醜い姿を恥じて急いで砂の中に隠れたのですが、運悪く見つかってしまいます。娘の報告で駆けつけた男達は、ゲブの苦痛の叫びにもかまわず彼の固い皮殻を削り落とし、藪の中に引きずり込んでよってたかって犯し、さらにはその血塗れの体に精液を塗りたくるという暴虐の限りを尽くすのです。愛を夢見る哀れなゲブを。もう身も心もボロボロ……。

ところが、精液を塗られたゲブの体に新しい、美しい皮膚が!!

この後ゲブは小屋に監禁されますが（この上いたぶる気だったのか……）どうにか空へ逃れて月になった、というこれも精液の呪力による変身譚とみて良いでしょう。

で私としては、精液はともかく、自分の姿を恥じて砂に潜って隠れようとしたゲブの切ない羞恥心が哀れにもかわゆくて、この話とても好きなのです。

補足　ゲブの神話で分かるように　メラネシアのマリントアニム族には精液信仰」があります。この信仰は1つ2つ近年まで続いてて　キリスト教の宣教師が「成年儀礼のシーズンになると　子供達が学校に来ない」と報告書を出してたりします。オシリが痛くて通学どころじゃなかんですね。こういう奇習がなくなったのは　本人達のためにはよいことでしょうが　キンウマにとってはちと寂しいことであります。

みなみ恵夢のボーイズ歴史館…第12回

古今東西 歴史上のドリームカップルを紹介しちゃうコーナー★

世界最古の物語

今回は世界最古のバビロニアの物語です。ギルガメシュは半神の英雄ですが、力に任せて暴れ放題。彼を抑えるために神々はエンキドゥという獣人を創ります。相まみえた二人は、力を尽くして戦いましたが決着つかず、そのうち、「やるな！」「あなたこそ！」ということで仲直り。これは人類開闢以来の由緒ある作法だったんですな。

これ以後彼らは無二の親友となり、エンキドゥは常にギルガメシュの傍らに戦友として……というよりは子犬のように付いて歩くのです。エンキドゥはもともと獣の群で暮らしていただけあって、とっても純情素朴なヒト。人間界に来たのもギルガメシュの策略に引っかかって、つまり差し向けられた女とつい交尾してしまい、人間の匂いが付いたのでもう獣達には受け入れてもらえない、寄る辺なくうろうろした挙げ句、くんくん鳴きながら人間の所へ……という次第。可愛すぎる！

しかしこの二人にも別れの時がやってきます。ギルガメシュが傲慢にも女神イシュタルの求愛を振ってしまい、なぜかその祟りがエンキドゥにきたのです。死の床のエンキドゥにギルガメシュは囁きます。「お前が死んだら、私は死の国の戸口に乞食のように座ってずっとずっと待っているよ。扉が開いたら、中に入ってお前の顔を見られるからね……。」イシュタルがエンキドゥを狙い撃ちした気持ち、分かりますねえ。エンキドゥは苦しみの中で自分の運命を呪っていましたが、神の「その運命がお前とギルガメシュを結んだのだぞ」と言う声を聞くと、にっこりして死を迎えたのでした。

最古の物語は最古の愛情譚でもあったのですね。

補足　ギルガメシュは素晴らしい美男だったそうでございます。女神が惚れたのも無理ないことなんですが、彼女がエンキドゥを狙ったのはやはり「女神の自分に見向きもせず　獣人との友情に生きる彼が許せなかったから」。女神がオトコに負けては怒りも倍増ですね。そしてエンキドゥをやっつけるにはやっつけても　ギルガメシュは死せるエンキドゥの顔に布を、まるで「花嫁にヴェールをかけてあげるように」そっとかけてあげたのだとか。これしやっぱり　ボロ負けですな。イシュタル女神は。